STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of Implementation of Recommendations Contained In Twentieth Report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Demand for Removal of Restriction on Sale of Wheat by Farmers of Punjab and Haryana

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH (HARYANA): Sir, recently a news item appeared in newspapers in Punjab and Haryana that the Government of India was adopting a new policy of not allowing the farmers to sell their wheat to anyone other than the FCI and other Government procuring agencies. Sir, Punjab and Haryana contribute more than 80 per cent of the wheat to the national kitty. Now, when the produce comes, the farmers want to have more money. You allow traders to sell anywhere in India, but the poor farmers of Haryana and Punjab are not allowed to sell their crops outside. You are putting a restriction on them. Even on storage of wheat, there is a restriction. So, our plea is that on the one side, you say that you are helping the farmers. But when the farmers get a chance to get more money above the market price, above the procurement price, then, the Government intervenes and stops it. Today, the market price of wheat is Rs. 1,200 per quintal. But you have fixed the price at Rs. 1,000 per quintal. And, the cost of wheat is Rs. 1,250 per tonne, and you import it at Rs. 1,600 per tonne. But now, when farmers of Punjab and Haryana are coming forward and the production of crops this time is not very good due to bad weather conditions, I request the Government not to put any restriction on sale by Punjab and Haryana farmers. They should have freedom and full access to the private market. The Government should not interfere and do anything against their interests; otherwise, if the farmer is not given remunerative prices and he is not able to earn profit, he would remain in debt and every time a demand would be raised to waive off his loans. So, this is the time to help farmers in Punjab and Haryana.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA (Nominated): Sir, I associated myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.